

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

JOHN M. COWAN, B.A., M.D. Cantab.,  
D.Sc. Glasgow

FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS;  
LECTURER ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL;  
DISPENSARY PHYSICIAN, WESTERN INFIRMARY;  
EXTRA HONORARY PHYSICIAN, ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN;  
RESEARCH FELLOW; AND FOULIS MEMORIAL SCHOLAR OF  
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14 WOODSIDE CRESCENT,  
GLASGOW, *March 9th*, 1905.

*TO THE GOVERNORS OF  
ANDERSON'S COLLEGE MEDICAL SCHOOL.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School.

I graduated B.A. (Honours) in the Science Tripos at Cambridge in the summer of 1891, and in October of that year returned to Glasgow, and completed my medical education at the University, Anderson's College, and the Western Infirmary. I graduated M.B., B.C., Cantab., in 1895, and M.D. in 1902. I was elected a Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in 1898, and became D.Sc., Glasgow, in 1904.

After graduation, I filled resident posts in the Western Infirmary (1895-96), Royal Hospital for Sick Children (1896), and City of Glasgow Fever Hospitals (1897-98), and in 1900 served in South Africa as Physician to the Scottish National Red Cross Hospital (mentioned in despatches).

I have been a member of the staffs of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and the Western Infirmary since 1899.

For the last six years I have acted as one of Professor Gemmell's clinical assistants, and as such have been

constantly engaged in teaching in his wards, and since 1900 I have been lecturing in Practice of Medicine at the Western Medical School.

I have been engaged in Research in the Pathological Laboratory of the University for the past seven years, and, as a result, I was appointed, in 1904, a Research Fellow of the University.

Should I have the honour of being elected to the Chair, I shall discharge the duties to the best of my abilities, and, I trust, to your satisfaction.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN M. COWAN.

## Contributions to Medical Literature.

ON THE PRESYSTOLIC MURMUR.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1898, vol. i., pp. 166-171. 2 Figs.

NOTES ON EMPYEMATA IN CHILDHOOD.—*Glasgow Hospital Reports*, 1900, pp. 314-327.

KROONSTAD. MAY-SEPTEMBER, 1900.—*Scottish Medical and Surgical Journal*, 1901, pp. 21-29.

ON OBSTRUCTION OF THE CORONARY ARTERIES.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 49-63. 2 Figs.

FATTY DEGENERATION OF THE MYOCARDIUM.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1902, vol. viii., pp. 177-199. 12 Figs.

THE HEART IN ACUTE DISEASE.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 87-110. 19 Figs.

THE FIBROSES OF THE HEART.—*Journal of Pathology*, 1903, vol. ix., pp. 209-224. 12 Figs.

FIVE ILLUSTRATIVE CASES OF CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE (with Dr. A. R. FERGUSON).—*Lancet*, 1903, vol. ii., pp. 952-956. 3 Figs.

THE CARDIAC MUSCLE. (A lecture delivered to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of the University of Glasgow).—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, 1904, pp. 127-136. 10 Figs.

A REVIEW OF RECENT WORK UPON BLOOD PRESSURE.—*Practitioner*, August, 1904. Pp. 23.

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A CASE OF CREOSOTE POISONING IN A CHILD.—*Glasgow Medical Journal*, 1897, vol. i., pp. 145-147.

A CASE OF ACUTE ENDOCARDITIS.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1899, vol. vii., pp. 237-239.

A SPECIMEN OF A RARE FORM OF AORTIC INCOMPETENCE.—*Transactions of the Pathological and Clinical Society*, 1902, vol. ix., pp. 88-90. 2 Figs.





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## TESTIMONIALS.

*From* T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P.,  
*etc., Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge.*

ST. RADEGUND'S,  
CAMBRIDGE, *March*, 1905.

I CAN cordially recommend the merits of DR. COWAN of King's College, now of Glasgow, for the Chair of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College. Dr. Cowan left behind him here a high reputation for serious application to work, abilities considerably above the average, and the agreeable personal qualities which enhance those higher merits, and conduce to the pleasant and efficient co-operation with colleagues.

Perhaps I cannot better illustrate what I have said than by copying the following entry from my book of theses for the degree of M.D.—under Dr. Cowan's name: Dec. 4. 02. "The Heart in Acute Disease." "Act kept with a thesis embodying an elaborate histological investigation—which, when correlated with clinical data, will be very valuable. Many fine drawings were produced."

It is difficult to conceive any training more thorough for efficiency in medicine, and for the development of the faculties, than such intimate and methodical investigations, the only sure foundation for the science and practice of Medicine.

T. CLIFFORD ALLBUTT.

*From* JAMES FINLAYSON, M.D., LL.D., *Physician to the Western Infirmary, Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and to the Hospital for Diseases of the Ear; Late President of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons.*

2 WOODSIDE PLACE,  
CHARING CROSS, *March 4th, 1905.*

DR. JOHN M. COWAN'S application for the vacant chair of Medicine in Anderson's College is entitled to, and will no doubt receive, very serious consideration.

(1) He has qualified himself for such a post by varied hospital experience, as a resident in the Western Infirmary, the Children's Hospital, Belvidere Fever Hospital, and the Scottish Hospital in South Africa during the war.

(2) Since then he has worked assiduously at pathological inquiries, which are so important as a basis for practical medicine; and his published investigations, particularly regarding the heart, are justly recognised as important.

(3) As a teacher in the Western Medical School, and in the out-patient clinics of the Western Infirmary, he is recognised as highly successful and most painstaking. It is obviously important for Anderson's College to have their teachers connected with the Western Infirmary, where University students work, as in this way there is hope for the future development—already notably begun—of Anderson's College as a true "Extra-mural" school,—that is, a school where University students may take part of their qualifying courses for graduation at the University here.

I feel certain that Dr. Cowan, who served for a time under me at the Children's Hospital, has the requisite natural ability, and has taken very ample pains to qualify himself for such a chair, and that he has already given proofs of his success as a teacher, which this new position may be expected to extend.

JAMES FINLAYSON.

*From SAMSON GEMMELL, M.D., Professor of Clinical  
Medicine in the University of Glasgow.*

17 WOODSIDE PLACE,  
March 8, 1905.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN has for some years acted as one of the Clinical Tutors in connection with the classes in Clinical Medicine, conducted by me in the Western Infirmary. In this capacity he has had to give demonstrations of cases in the wards, and I have reason to know that he has proved himself an able exponent.

He has a thorough knowledge of medicine on its scientific side; and has been at no little pains to qualify himself as a teacher. This has been his aim, indeed, ever since his graduation, and his application is expressive therefore of a very legitimate ambition.

He has contributed several papers of no little merit to current medical literature; and his position of Dispensary Physician to the Western Infirmary gives him an opportunity of illustrating medical doctrines by appeal to actual practice.

I regard him as a very eligible candidate for the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College Medical School; and am convinced, should he be successful, that he will spare no pains to sustain and enhance the repute of the School.

SAMSON GEMMELL.



*From* GEORGE A. GIBSON, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E.,  
*Physician to the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.*

3 DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS,  
 EDINBURGH, 9th March, 1905.

THE position which DR. J. M. COWAN holds in the medical world of Glasgow is so well known that any testimonial from me may well seem superfluous. As he has, however, requested my opinion, I have much pleasure in acceding to his desire.

My knowledge of Dr. Cowan rests upon the basis of long personal acquaintance with him, and I am intimately conversant with the valuable contributions he has made to the literature of medicine. As a teacher I know that Dr. Cowan has been singularly successful both in systematic and clinical work, and the long course of preparation which he has passed through in the Western Medical School and the Western Infirmary gives the best guarantee of his future development.

Dr. Cowan's original work has already taken a very high place in modern medicine, and, as much of it has lain along lines parallel to investigations of my own, I am in a position which allows me to form a clear judgment as to its value. I have no hesitation in saying that he has made great additions to our knowledge of many pathological problems connected with the circulation, many of which I have been glad to utilize in my own work. In addition to these pathological contributions, Dr. Cowan has also produced some admirable clinical observations, showing that in his labours pathological investigation and clinical observation go hand in hand.

Understanding that Dr. Cowan is at present a candidate for the Chair of Practice of Medicine at Anderson's College, vacant by the lamented death of Dr. R. S. Thomson, I have much satisfaction in warmly recommending him for the post, as I am convinced that he will throw additional lustre upon this important position.

G. A. GIBSON.

*From* ARTHUR C. LATHAM, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., *Senior Assistant Physician, St. George's Hospital; Assistant Physician, Brompton Hospital for Consumption, London.*

44 BROOK STREET,  
GROSVENOR SQUARE, *March 5, 1905.*

I HAVE much pleasure in stating that I have known DR. JOHN M. COWAN for a number of years, and that I regard him as eminently qualified to hold the Chair of Practice of Medicine at Anderson's College.

Dr. Cowan's thorough knowledge of his subject, great capacity for teaching, and scientific enthusiasm more than fit him for any post of this kind.

ARTHUR C. LATHAM.

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*From* ALEXANDER MACALISTER, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., etc.,  
*Professor of Anatomy in the University of Cambridge.*

TORRISDALE,  
CAMBRIDGE, *3rd March, 1905.*

I HAVE been interested in taking note of the work which DR. COWAN has been engaged in, both as teacher and researcher, and have been pleased to see how well he has fulfilled the promise of his student days. He was one of the ablest men of his year in my class, and the quality and method of his work led me to anticipate for him a successful and distinguished career. I believe he has shewn all the qualities that go to make a successful teacher, and can confidently recommend him to the consideration of the electors to the Chair of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College.

ALEX. MACALISTER.

*From* DONALD MACALISTER, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., *Linacre Lecturer of Physic in the University of Cambridge; Chairman of the General Medical Council.*

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,  
CAMBRIDGE, 3rd March, 1905.

DR. JOHN M. COWAN is well known to me as an able and diligent Pathologist and Physician, who has used his opportunities well, and has contributed notably to medical knowledge. I regard him as exceptionally qualified for the important post that he is seeking at Anderson's College.

DONALD MACALISTER.

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*From* ROBERT MUIR, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.P.S., *Professor of Pathology in the University of Glasgow.*

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,  
March 8th, 1905.

I HAVE pleasure in writing in strong support of the application of DR. JOHN M. COWAN for the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College, as he appears to me to have in special degree all the necessary qualifications.

Possessed of high natural powers, and having the advantage of an excellent training, he has devoted his energies exclusively to medicine in its various aspects, and has already won a high reputation both as a clinician and as a teacher. I would wish especially to emphasize the fact that while availing himself of every opportunity for extending his clinical knowledge, he has also during the last few years carried on important research in the domain of cardiac disease, and his published papers place him in the front rank of workers in this department of medicine.



In fact, I consider that, in the department treated, his writings are not excelled by any in English as regards extent and accuracy. And such work as Dr. Cowan has done appears to me essential to efficient teaching in the proper sense, if the teacher is not to be a mere retailer of views held by others. Amongst the younger physicians in Glasgow there is no one, in my opinion, to whose future eminence one can look forward to with greater confidence, and if he were appointed, a really valuable addition would be made to the teaching staff of Anderson's College.

ROBERT MUIR.

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*From JAMES RITCHIE, M.A., M.D., Reader in Pathology in the University of Oxford; Honorary Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary.*

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM,  
OXFORD, *March 4th, 1905.*

I HAVE great pleasure in supporting DR. JOHN M. COWAN in his candidature for the Chair of Practice of Medicine at Anderson's College.

I have had occasion to make myself familiar with his past work, especially with that relating to Disease of the Heart, and I have formed a very high opinion of its quality. To engage in investigations such as Dr. Cowan has carried on is the best possible preparation for prosecuting in a proper manner the teaching and practice of Medicine, because it is only by a thorough knowledge of the scientific phenomena of disease that symptoms can be interpreted, and a rational treatment devised.

Dr. Cowan, I therefore consider, possesses the highest qualifications for filling a chair of medicine with eminent success.

JAMES RITCHIE.

*From G. SIMS WOODHEAD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.S.E.,  
etc., Professor of Pathology in the University of  
Cambridge.*

DR. JOHN M. COWAN informs me that he is a candidate for the vacant chair of Practice of Medicine in Anderson's College, and asks me to state whether I think he is qualified to fill this post. I may say that I have a very high opinion of the work done by Dr. Cowan. I have had occasion to examine three of his papers most closely, and since I did this I have had the opportunity of meeting Dr. Cowan. I have been very much struck by the thorough grasp that he has of Medicine and Pathology. He is a man of wide experience in Medicine, and he has taken the best of all means to fit himself for such a post as that for which he is now a candidate; whilst devoting much of his time to the Practical aspect of Medicine he has paid a great deal of attention to the cause and course of disease. His work on the Heart is, I consider, some of the best that has been published, and I believe that it has had, and will have a very marked influence on the Diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the heart and blood-vessels. I wish Dr. Cowan every success in his candidature.

G. SIMS WOODHEAD.

# ADDITIONAL TESTIMONIAL

IN FAVOUR OF

JOHN M. COWAN, B.A., M.D. Cantab.,  
D.Sc. Glasgow

FELLOW OF THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS;  
LECTURER ON PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, WESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL;  
DISPENSARY PHYSICIAN, WESTERN INFIRMARY;  
EXTRA HONORARY PHYSICIAN, ROYAL HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN;  
RESEARCH FELLOW; AND FOULIS MEMORIAL SCHOLAR OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

*From G. P. TENNENT, M.D., Consulting Physician to the  
Western Infirmary.*

159 BATH STREET,  
GLASGOW, 9th March, 1905.

I HAVE special pleasure in giving DR. J. M. COWAN my heartiest recommendation in his application for the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College. Dr. Cowan's medical education has been unusually complete. Of his clinical work, while a student, I had ample personal experience, and I was then led to form a very high estimate of his abilities. After graduating, Dr. Cowan acted for upwards of six months as Resident Physician in charge of my wards in the Western Infirmary, and my intimate knowledge of him during that period greatly intensified the very high opinion of his abilities already formed. Subsequently, Dr. Cowan held for a considerable time the appointments of Resident Medical Officer to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children and of Assistant Physician to the City Fever Hospital at Belvidere.

Always earnestly devoted to the medical side of the profession, Dr. Cowan, on commencing private work as a Physician, resolved on avoiding all Visiting practice, so as to concentrate his attention wholly on Hospital, Teaching, and Consulting Work. For six years he has been attached as Dispensary Physician to the outdoor medical departments of the Western Infirmary and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. For a similar period he has continuously assisted Professor Gemmell in his Clinical Teaching in the wards of the Western Infirmary, and for the last

five years he has lectured with marked success on the Practice of Medicine in the Western Medical School. During these years, too, Dr. Cowan has already secured for himself a very high reputation in the Profession by his excellent original investigations and his valuable contributions to medical literature.

For these reasons Dr. Cowan is in my opinion eminently worthy of and exceptionally well qualified for the Chair of Medicine in Anderson's College ; and if he is appointed to that Chair, I have no hesitation in predicting that he will in the future add very greatly to the reputation of Anderson's College Medical School.

G. P. TENNENT.





